

Application No. 10/043,944
Amendment dated January 6, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action of October 18, 2004

Docket No. 1232-4808

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank to the Examiner for the courtesy extended in the telephone interview of December 21, 2004 and respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application. Claims 2 and 3 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent forms. Claims 1 and 4-6 stand rejected.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are amended. Claim 3 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 37-40 are added. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Objection

The Abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it exceeds 150 words in length.

The Abstract has been amended as shown above.

Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 4-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,683,657 to Miyawaki ("Miyawaki").

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended for further clarification. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the similar limitations of claim 3 which is indicated as allowable in the Final Office Action.

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Accordingly, amended claim 1 is believed neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the cited reference (i.e., Miyawaki) for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Applicant has not individually addressed the rejections of all of the dependent claims because Applicant submits that the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicant however reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Claim 2 has been amended in an independent form including the similar limitations of the base claim (i.e., claim 1), and is believed in condition for allowance.

New Claims

Claims 37-40 have been added to recite the claimed invention in an alternative manner. In particular, each of added independent claims 37 and 39 recites the similar features to allowed claims 2 and 3 in an independent form, respectively. New independent claims 37 and 39, and dependent claims 38 and 40, are accordingly believed to be allowable for at least this reason.

Applicant believes that this application including the added claims is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

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AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4808). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN LLP

Dated: January 6, 2005

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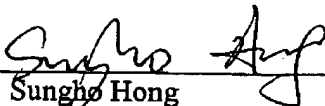
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